

Thirty-Seventh Congress—1st Session

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, May 28.

The Vice President presented a message from the President, that it is incompatible with the public interest to furnish information concerning the rebels in Kentucky at present. Also a message from the President that the House of Representatives should be informed of the results of the military operations in Kentucky.

The bill making an appropriation for the purchase of land for the establishment of a national cemetery at Arlington, Virginia, was passed.

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Matchman & State Journal.

BY E. P. WALTON.

MONTPELIER, JUNE 6, 1862.

FROM WASHINGTON.

CONFIRMATION—CONFIRMATION.

WASHINGTON, May 26.

I have delayed the usual weekly letter for the purpose of giving the action of the House on the confirmation question.

The Senate for a day or two sustained the bill of its committee.

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abominations of rebel troops.

The people of the conquered rebel states find in it evidence of insecurity, and even the loyalists disposed of not dare to incur the danger to life and property which will be sure to come, if we cannot hold and protect as far as we conquer.

Then remember how such a fact will strengthen the position which foreign governments are too ready to assume as a warrant for intervention: that is, the rebel country is too vast for us to hold by arms, even if we shall conquer it. I think I see clearly that the sugar-plum policy must be utterly abandoned.

We must use the rod. We must no longer be afraid of hurting rebel armies; we must no longer abide the strategy that preserves these armies; but they must be broken up, disorganized, disbanded—and to do that, they must first be beaten.

I have been patient to give the easy-going policy a fair trial; but for a long time I have expected this result, and for three weeks at least I have expected that the rebels would make the very demonstration that was made yesterday.

It was nothing less than a demonstration against Washington to save Richmond; and it was not sufficiently provided against. McClellan, McDowell, Banks, Fremont, have all been demanding reinforcements, each thinking that his position needed them. I do not think the government has failed to employ all its resources. The fact is that the plan has had a big flaw in it. It has been developed; and you have already learned that new resources are demanded.

WASHINGTON, May 27.

The friends of the House scheme for confiscation and emancipation are greatly mortified at the result of yesterday's voting. They have confiscated every thing but that which they most wished to reach: slaves stand out prominently as the only exception. Any thing but that would have been more satisfactory; and to-day I think the Republicans of the House would be more content, but delighted, if they could have the Senate bill.

I am thinking you are more excited than we are here, over the orders of the Government to Northern Executives. We are calm and content, if the army already in the field shall be allowed to move. Nevertheless, an additional force is doubtless needed as a reserve, and everybody expects a ready response from the people.

FROM MR. WALTON'S LETTER, which we publish to-day, it would seem that the House of Representatives are not at all satisfied with their action on the confiscation and emancipation bill, but would prefer to get at the Senate bill. To us it seems that the House have been caught in the very trap which certain Senators set for them, and which it was in the power of the House itself to have avoided.

Instead of continuing to work on the Senate confiscation bill, certain Senators succeeded in getting it laid aside to await the action of the House on the bill before that body.

Mr. Morrill offered to accept it in place of his own amendment; but this offer could not be accepted without unanimous consent, and it was cut off by a stalling objector.

All the other amendments were then voted down, and bill 471 was passed by a majority.

As a vote on the Senate scheme had been excluded, the effect was to compel all who preferred the Senate bill to vote for bill 471, or else stand on the record in a false position, as opponents of confiscation; and the House bill was actually passed by the votes of those who prefer the Senate bill. Then came bill 472, and Walton's amendment was in order.

All that part of it relating to confiscation had been superseded by the passage of bill 471, and most of the friends of the amendment had already voted for that bill. The result, of course, was that many of its friends felt themselves precluded from supporting it by the previous vote, which they had given up on compulsion, and it was rejected by a large majority. Thus the Senate scheme did have a trial at all. Had the House rejected bill 471, as the friends of the Senate scheme could have done, the latter would in all probability have passed, since in that case the question must simply have been Senate scheme or nothing. The truth is that the Republicans were divided between the two schemes, the Democratic and Slave State men generally voted steadily against all propositions, on the miserable principle of getting the Republicans to damage themselves as much as possible, and neither scheme could have a majority on its own merits, and the Republicans had to yield their differences. They saved the confiscation bill, but the emancipation was defeated by a majority. The result is that everybody is to some extent dissatisfied, and the day's work is reckoned as the worst of the session. Our own delegation endeavored to get the best bills they could; but as they were determined to do whatever they could to mark their estimation of the rebellion and of its source, they voted as a unit for both bills, and also for most of the amendments. The best thing of the day was the passage of a bill, with only 9 dissenting votes, to reward the slaves who recently transferred a steamer from the rebels at Charleston to the United States fleet. These slaves receive prize money as freemen.

So much for confiscation. Now for confederation. Though that term is not inapplicable to the day's doings in the House, I use it in reference to yesterday's events. You may well guess that the news from Banks' command produced a profound sensation here. I hardly dare tell you how distressing it was to those who comprehend the dangers of the present crisis. It is nothing surprising that a large force compels a small one to retreat. It would have been comparatively a light thing had the little army of Banks been entirely cut to pieces, instead of saved by a masterly retreat. But the fact that his banishment from Virginia was permitted is of great significance, as proof of a policy really defeative. Consider the probable consequences from the fact that a territory more than one hundred miles in extent, once sub-

GEN. BUTLER'S ORDER.—The rebel leaders

are trying to fire their soldiers and people on account of what they style an "infamous order" of Gen. Butler, at New Orleans, which is as follows:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF, May 10, 1862.

As the officers and soldiers of the United States have been subjected to repeated outrages from the "cruel and unfeeling" leaders of the "Ladies of New Orleans," in return for the most scrupulous non-interference and courtesy on our part, it is ordered that every female shall be regarded as an enemy, and treated as such. No woman shall be allowed to pass without a permit from the military authorities. No woman shall be allowed to pass without a permit from the military authorities.

By command of Major General Butler, GEO. C. STROUD, A. G.

As not a few at the North have condemned the order, thinking it meant as the rebels are trying to make it appear, a statement of the facts that the municipal regulations of the city of New Orleans punish women of the town found in the street after nightfall, or who may converse with persons outside from windows of their residences, will explain away the horrors that might otherwise attach to it.

GEN. BUTLER FEELING THE NEW ORLEANS POOL.—The general order of Gen. Butler, distributing to the poor of New Orleans a quantity of beef and sugar belonging to the rebel government, is a capital thing in its way, and capitally done, the general taking into consideration the prevalent poverty and appropriate moral reflections in connection with a wise act of charity.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF, New Orleans, May 9, 1862.

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